

The Allen-Scott Report

Ransoms Give Reds West Trade

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WASHINGTON — In the State Department, it is apparently the practice for one set of officials to pursue a policy while another is either indifferent or ignorant about it.

Secretary Dean Rusk is directing negotiations aimed at expanding trade and diplomatic relations with Romania. At the same time, State Department intelligence and security officials have detailed information about a far-flung traffic in human lives being conducted by the Red rulers of Romania that is netting hundreds of millions in "hard" currency, chiefly dollars.

These dollars are being used to buy plants, machinery, equipment and other capital goods from eager sellers in NATO countries — foremost among them Britain, France, Italy and West Germany.

Between 70,000 and 100,000 human beings so far have been "sold" in this shocking traffic. Scores are being "peddled" every week, illustrative of how lucrative this extraordinary business is is an authoritative estimate that it has produced more than \$200 million for its Communist operators.

EXTENT DISCLOSED — The sordid nature and extent of this traffic is being unfolded in private hearings by the House Immigration subcommittee, headed by Rep. Michael Feighan, D-Ohio.

His revealing investigation is an outgrowth of a study last year by a special Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, also headed by Feighan. In a little-noticed report, based on talks with numerous Iron Curtain refugees, the committee stated:

"These interviews provided direct information on the organization and structure of a massive Communist blackmail operation at work in the free world. Persons in the free world with relatives living in Iron Curtain countries are contacted and informed that for a price in hard currencies exit permits can be obtained for their relatives.

"The price tag on these exit permits varies according to ability to pay. The evidence obtained points to a well-organized and widespread Communist scheme to extort funds under the guise of following conditions behind the Iron Curtain."

COVERUP TRIED — Feighan's forceful inquiry has pinpointed Romania as the chief offender and beneficiary of this crass traffic in human lives.

Another explosive development was an attempt by certain State Department officials to deny knowing anything about this highly lucrative Communist "business." Only when Feighan went over their heads and made it clear he had irrefutable evidence did other officials produce the jolting reports he knew were in State Department files.

These official documents spell out the whole shabby operation, as follows:

What it amounts to is a large-scale, highly organized traffic in refugees.

Red Romania, with which the State Department is negotiating expanded trade and diplomatic relations, is literally selling freedom to thousands of its nationals and making hundreds of millions in "hard" currencies which the Bucharest rulers are using to buy Western supplies not obtainable in the Soviet bloc.

Headquarters of this huge "shakedown" are in London.

In charge is a Hungarian with

Romanian citizenship, and presumably a trusted Communist. He functions under the guise of conducting an export-import business, dealing almost entirely with Romania.

'RUNNERS' USED — There is considerable evidence that he gets a 10 per cent "cut" on all the money he handles.

This top agent has numerous "runners" throughout free Europe, Latin America and the United States. These "runners" contact relatives and friends of Romanians who have sought exit visas or are deemed likely prospects.

The relatives and friends are told an exit visa can be obtained for payment in "hard" currency — dollars preferred.

Two factors largely determine the price: The value placed on the would-be refugee by the Communists and the amount the relatives and friends can raise. The rates range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

In addition to this huge hoard of "hard" currency, the Reds also divested these refugees of all their property and physical assets. They were allowed to retain only the clothes they wore and about \$100 in Romanian currency.

The regime even chiseled on the \$100 in Romanian currency, as the refugees were required to pay for their transportation from this pitiful sum.

Most of the refugees go to France and Austria. Lately, a number have headed for Rome. All their identification cards are stamped "Transit Visa" with no final destination indicated. They do not settle in these countries. They are merely stop-overs en route to places which admit them for permanent residence. Considerable numbers have come to the United States.

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